हुआ है अफगानिस्तान का उसके पहले भी हमारे साथ उनका व्यापार दवाओं का चाहे वे यूनानी हों या आयुर्वेदिक हों या एलोपैथिक हों, या नहीं और वह चाहे सहायता के रूप में हों या पैसे और व्यापार के रूप में?

श्री पी० शिव शंकर: आप का प्रश्न सोवियत यूनियन से उन के संबंध से पहले का है। मेरे पास इस वक्त यह डिटेल नहीं है कि क्या कोई ऐसी यूनानी या आयुर्वेदिक दवाइयां उनको उस समय भिजवाई जा रहीं थीं। पहले की इंफार्मेशन मेरे पास नहीं है। मैं यह इंफार्मेशन बाद में दूंगा।

Supply of man-power to foreign countries

*23. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into an agreement with any foreign country for man-poweh supply;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to protect the interests of Indian labourers abroad regarding their welfare, wages and safe return to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Shanti G. Patel.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Government has entered into a labour agreement recently with the State of Qatar. Its aim is to organise the entry of Indian manpower to the State of Qatar.

It envisages receipt of recruitment applications from the employers in the State of Qatar for employment of Indian manpower through their Ministry to this Ministry. It also provides that if the Ministry of Labour is not able to meet the manpower requirements of the Qatari employer then the recruitment can be carried out directly or through an authorised representative of the employer. The agreement provide that the recruitment applications should state the requisite qualifications, experience and specialisation of the Indian manpower. It would also include the duration of the contract period, the conditions of the employment especially the salary agreed, the end of service benefits and the facilities regarding transportation, accommodation etc. All these elements are mentioned in the model employment contract, which is attached with this agreement.

There is a provision for lodging a complaint with the competent authority in case of a dispute between the employer and the worker. It also says that if an amicable settlement fails, the complaints shall be referred to the judicial authorities in the State of Qatar.

The Agreement provides for a Joint Committee of 3 members each to interpret the provisions of the agreement and settle the disputes that might arise in its implementation.

In order to protect the interests of Indian labourers the following steps have been taken:

(1) The Indian Mission authenticates the documents of only those employers whose credentials have been verified.

(2) The workers are permitted to leave the country only if the terms and conditions of employment are satisfactory.

(3) Whenever a complaint is lodged

Missions, it is taken up by our Missions with the appropriate authorities to resolve it expeditiously.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: In reply to this question, particularly part (a), the Minister has been pleased to say that there has been a labour agreement entered into. In this context I would refer to his reply which states that the agreement "also provides that if the Ministry of Labour is not able to meet the manpower requirements of the Qatari employer then the recruitment can be carried out directly or through an authorised representative of the employer." I would like to know from the honourable Minister in this context—and I am sure he is well aware that there is rampant corruption as far as the recruitment of manpower for employment in the Gulf countries is concerned—what machinery the Labour Ministry has devised to see that the recruitment is regulated properly. If they have not devised any, what steps they propose to take so that this corruption does not creep into the channels of the Ministry and how the seniority list for selection of candidates is going to be made? In other words, what are going to be the norms on the basis of which people are going to be selected for the various posts, whether a register would be kept like in the Employment Exchanges and what is it? Further, I would like to know...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will have a second supplementary. Please sit down.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: No, Sir. It is in this context.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes are over, please. Mr. Sangma.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: The clock is moving fast.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is an express train.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, the agreement contemplates that the requirement of the Government of Qatar will be met from the Government. They will give us the total number of manpower required. This requisition will be made to the Government of India, to the Ministry of Labour. We have seven Manpower Exporting Corporations in various States. Kerala Government has got. And Maharashtra, Punjab have got. There are seven Corporations. We on our turn will distribute this to the State Corporations. This is precisely because there has been a lot of complaint of malpractice by private recruiting agencies. In order to avoid those problems we have entered into an agreement that in future the supply of manpower from India to Qatar would be on Government-to-Government basis. But since these Corporations are new and they are not yet, I think, very very familiar with the trade, it may so happen that they may not be able to fulfil the entire requirement. Therefore, we have made a provision that in case they are not able to fulfil the entire requirement, then, the Qatar Government can either directly recruit by itself or through the agencies who have been authorised to do so. This is an arrangement.

As far as the criteria is concerned, I would not be able to tell you the details. But the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs, as far as the skilled manpower like doctors are concerned, maintains a Register of Manpower, and it is from this list that that they will be selected. But the selection, I think, lies with them because it is the recruiting agencies and the Government which conduct the interviews about eligibility. So, I do not think that there is any question of seniority. I am not very sure. But I can check up the position and inform the hon. Member.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Sir, the answer given by the Minister seems to be contradictory. He says, this agreement requires the Government to supply the labour directly, and in the same tone he says that if the Government is not able to fulfil the requirements of the Qatar Government, then, they will permit them to

recruit the labour or manpower directly. This negates the whole purpose of the agreement. I would particularly like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to a complaint which has been sent to the Ministry. A person named Mr. Gore was employed. When he found that some terms were not being fulfilled properly according to the terms of the contract and wanted to leave the job and return to India, then, he was not being giving his passport, and on the contrary he was being pressurised to say that he would be required to pay compensation etc. I am bringing this particular thing to your notice because all these facts are personally known to me. I know the person concerned also. That is why I would like to know why he wants this direct recruitment to go on either by private people or through authorised representatives. Will he not consider it advisable to have recruitment only through Government agencies either at the Central or at the State level?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, absolutely there is no contradiction at all. What I have said is, we have the Register of Manpower recorded with us. They will first come to us, to the Government, and we will ask the Corporations to supply. It is only when these Corporations tell us that they are not in a position to supply any more and since they need the people, we will permit them to recruit directly by themselves. There is no contradiction at all.

As far as the particular case to which the hon. Member has referred is concerned, if the details are furnished to me, I will look into the details.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mohunta.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mohnuta has been called. Nobody else will go on record.

*Not recorded.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: My question is, in the Gulf countries, the living standards of the Indian people who went there to serve on their own or through recruiting agencies, are very bad, inasmuch as they are not able to practice their own religious ceremonies or cultural functions there. They have been stopped there. It happened on this Diwali which passed recently. A regular Indian Construction Company operating in Kuwait celebrated Diwali and they all found themselves landed up in jail. I have come to know that the Indian Embassy in Kuwait could not come to their rescue even. The only thing that they did was to celeberate Diwali in Kuwait. Kuwait people said we do not celeberate these functions and we do not allow other people to practice their own faith there. Here I want to have an assurance from the Minister if he will see to it that the ordinary rights of those people who migrate to these countries only for a limited period to serve on some contract basis are protected in that country and that he will be able to look after their interests.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: All these aspects have been taken care of in the Agreement. In fact we have a model contract which has been worked out where all the aspects the hon. Member has mentioned like salary, transportation, air fare—to and fro-freight, accommodation, working hours, over-time and other benefits, have been taken care of.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: What about the cultural and religious ceremonies practised by these people?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wait till he completes the answer.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: That is precisely the reason why we have been trying to make this agreement Government to Government. In what conditions the workers will be living

there they are contemplated in the Agreement. In case they have any problem. a mechanism also has been provided as to how to solve them. I am not sure about the religious...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, cultural.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: About cultural activities I do not think there is any problem, but as far as the religious aspect is concerned, I am not sure whether this has been specifically included. But, I suppose it can be covered by order living conditions. I will certainly look into it and this matter can be taken up.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: In the answer which has been provided it has been stated that the Government has entered into an agreement with the State of Qatar. I would like to know from the Minister whether similar agreements have been entered into with any other Middle East countries. If so, what are those countries and what are the other countries which have not agreed to such conditions, because the hon. Minister's predecessor, when he was in Qatar, made a statement stating that there were certain other countries which had not agreed to such terms. I would like to know which are those other countries. Secondly, while stating this the Minister said the recruitment can be carried out directly or through authorised representatives of the employers. Because there are a number of probate agencies, I would like to know what are those authorised agencies which you permit to recruit Indian workers to other countries. I would also like to know whether those agencies have assured you or you make sufficient arrangements so that they do not misuse their agency in recruiting the workers.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: We are trying to enter into similar agreements with other countries. At the moment we have this agreement with the Government of Qatar, but we are also trying to have similar agreements with other countries. It is in the stage of negotiation at the moment and therefore I would not like to go into details.

As far as the second aspect of the question is concerned, these recruiting agents are registered with the Directorate-General of Immigrants in our Ministry and the total number of these agents at the moment is about 1,055, which has been published. It is a public document.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, I wanted to know the names of other countries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has answered the question. Nothing will go on record.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sometimes certain unscrupulous elements holding recruitment agencies often approach the ordinary unwary people in the villages, show them the path of milk and honey and induce them to sell all their belongings for a very bright future in the countries abroad. Sir, I would like to know from the Honourable Minister, as to what action has been taken against such elements including those authorised agents who in turn sub-let their agencies and authorise some people to act on their behalf which they are not really permitted to do otherwise?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, it is true that there are lot of complaints about these things. In fact, we have been trying to take lot of steps to check all these malpractices. Regarding hon. Member's concern of recruiting agencies, the public recruiting agencies are registered with us. They are supposed to deposit with us the security amount ranging between Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs. In case there are some people who are being cheated by them or stranded

*Not recorded.

somewhere, we take care of them from this security deposit amount. Whenever complaints are coming to us, we certainly enquire into and compensate them from the security amount.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question No. 24. Honourable Member absent. Next Question No. 25.

*24. [*The questioner (Shri Rajni Ranjan Sahu) was absent. For answer vide cols* 33 infra]

Unearthing of massive frauds by Bank Officials

*25. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:†

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that massive frauds by bank officials were unearthed following countrywide raids conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation at the residences of senior officers of nationalised banks during the last three months;

(b) if so, what is the nature of the frauds unearthed and the incriminating documents seized; and

(c) what action has been taken against the corrupt officials on the basis of the CBI inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Biswa Goswami

Statement

...eported that ... investigation of ... by various branches of the C.B.I. against bank officials and private persons|firms for alleged conspiracy to defraud the ...ector banks by showing undue ... private persons|parties in ...f grant of loans|overdrafts, forgery, possession of disproportionate to known ... of income, cheating, criminal misconduct etc., searches has been carried out at the residences|office premises of 60 present and former bank officials during November 1985 to January 1986. During the searches, a large number of incriminating documents pertaining to financial transactions concerning investment in movable/immovable/properties, illegal grant of loans|overdraft facilities etc. were recovered. These documents are under scrutiny.

In addition, the following amounts of movable|immovable items were unearthed in course of the searches:

(1) Cash, bank balances, FDRS, NSCs, Bearer Bonds, etc.	Rs. 24,11,260/- approx.
(2) Movable assets like jewellery, imported VCRs, TVs, costly electrical gadgets, etc.	Rs. 24,74,355/- approx.
(3) Immovable assets like houses, plots in posh localities, land, etc.	Rs. 49,32,447/- approx.

The C.B.I. investigations are in progress. After completion of investigations by the CBI, action against the bank officials involved in offences would be taken

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: Sir, the CBI has enquired into only a few cases of bank frauds. Sir, the Estimate Committee in its Report said that in 1978 there were only 1,422 cases of bank fraud involving Rs. 7.38 crores. In 1982, the figures had gone up to 2,068 cases involving Rs. 19.53